



How to redistribute worn inline skate wheels

Over time, inline skate wheels wear down. Their lifespan can be extended by redistributing them, similar to rotating the tires on a car.

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INTRODUCTION

It is time to do a wheel distribution if you notice that your skates are less balanced, stop poorly, and that your wheels are not symmetrical. Wheel distribution is a free alternative to buying a brand new set of wheels, and an important part of basic skate maintenance.



TOOLS:

- [Paper Towels](#) (1)
 - [Macro Bit Set](#) (1)
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Step 1 — How to redistribute worn inline skate wheels



- i** The wheel redistribution process is relatively easy, but you may get some oil/dirt on your hands. Wash your hands after completing the process.
- Set up the skates on a surface that is okay to get a little messy.
 - The wheels shown in the third photo are very heavily worn. It may be best to simply replace the wheels at this point.

Step 2



- Remove the wheels with the allen wrench. All screws for the pictured boot require a 5/32 allen wrench and are 10mm long.

Step 3





- Once the wheels are removed from the frame place them on your working surface. The basic idea is to take the most worn wheel and swap it with the least worn wheel, and continue.
- The pictured swap order (going up/down 2 slots and to the opposite boot) is a common one.

Step 4



- Use the paper towel to brush off the wheels and frames.

 It is possible to damage the bearings by getting fibers from the paper towel or dirt stuck in the bearings. Use caution when removing dirt from the bearings.

 This is a good stage to do more comprehensive bearing maintenance, if desired. Specific procedure varies depending on the model of bearing, so most companies have information on their websites.

Step 5



- Reinsert the wheel into the frame. Align the wheel with the frame and add the bolt back into the wheel.
- ⓘ If the wheel is aligned with the frame but the bolt will not pass through, it may be because the bearing within the wheel is out of alignment like in picture 3. Bump the wheel or carefully use the allen wrench to realign the bearing.

Step 6



- Flip the boot over, but be careful to hold the bolt into the frame. Add the 10mm screw to the hole and reattach it with the allen wrench.

Step 7



- Do a final check of your skate. This is a very important step, as an improperly aligned screw is easily missed but can fall out very easily.

⚠️ Losing a wheel while skating could result in injury. Make sure that all the wheels have both sides firmly attached, and that they all spin freely.

All wheels should spin freely. Adding the wheels back into the frame are trickier than getting them out and play a bigger role in your personal safety, so make sure to do that final check. Hopefully, the redistributed wheels will bring back some life into your old skates!

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